

SELF-STARTING REFERENCE CIRCUIT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A reference circuit provides a reference electrical characteristic such as a current or voltage using a low-threshold field effect transistor (FET) for improved start-up operation. The use of a low-threshold FET eliminates a stable operating point from occurring at zero current allowing the elimination of additional startup circuitry thereby providing power and space savings, particularly in analog CMOS circuitry. Additionally, the use of a low-threshold FET allows a lower voltage requirement from the power supply providing additional power savings.

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